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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Uranium Ore Mines in Horni Slavkov, "Barbora" and Lesnice/ New Mines in Beroun Area/ New Glove Factory in Dobris

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SOURCE

[The exact location of this mine is indicated by circled number 1 on Enclosure C; for detailed description see Enclosure A with legend.]

1. The "Barbora" mine comes under the jurisdiction of the inspectorate of Jachymov mines in Horni Slavkov. The "Barbora" mine is 300 meters deep, with six levels at 50-meter vertical intervals. Each level has one main drift with electric lighting and narrow-gauge rail lines for battery driven locomotives which pull ore carts from various side passages to the main loading cage. Side passages are not electrically illuminated; the miners use carbide lamps. The drills and hammers are driven by compressed air. Each level has its own mechanical repair shop.
2. Production: The first level of the "Barbora" mine yielded some 60 truckloads of crude ore per shift. (Each truckload contains about 10 quintals of material). Of these 60 truckloads, about six were of pure uranium ore, or so-called smolnice (pitchblende). The mine had relatively large veins of pitchblende which were up to 50 centimeters thick, and extended along the entire drift. In the event that a team encountered such a vein of pitchblende, the team had immediately to spread a tarpaulin on the ground and load all the pitchblende onto this sheet. From the sheet the material was loaded into trucks. Each work team consisted of three persons and mined from 10 to 12 truckloads of material per shift. During the loading of these ore trucks, the team was required to announce the number of the truck before and after loading. This provision was introduced after some of the numbers on the trucks were lost on the surface (or deliberately misplaced). I do not know the total yield from the "Barbora" mine.

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3. Procedure: The pure uranium ore (pitchblende) was loaded into metal barrels, and transported somewhere into the Jachymov area, under guard. The guard details were members of the SNB (Sbor Narodni Bezpecnosti, National Security Corps). The remaining uranium ore, which happened to be mixed with rock and earth was first taken to the sorting plants.
4. Personnel: There were two Soviet engineers at the "Barbora" mine (I cannot recall their names), and one Czech engineer (whose name I likewise cannot recall). Other than these, the personnel at the mine consisted of about 300 civilian workers, and 150 convicts, in three shifts. Of the total number, about 20 % were miners, and the remainder only re-schooled miners and helpers. About 10-15% of the entire personnel was devoted to clerical duties. Women were employed on the surface as collectors (kolektorky, sic).
5. Wages: Wages fluctuated according to the work norms, and (mainly) to the quantity of pitchblende mined. The average wage was about 5,000 to 6,000 crowns a month. Some persons, true to the regime, earned as much as 20,000 crowns a month, because the administration of the mine made it possible for those people always to be assigned to the sectors yielding the richest veins of pitchblende; mining this relatively pure ore produced average earnings which were about three times as great as those produced by working with regular ore. About 70 % of the personnel at the mine had no political affiliation; these workers had been assigned to the mine to serve penal sentences. The remaining 30 %, Communist Party members, were utilized, for the most part, in light and well-paid tasks, or were functionaries of the Party, of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, or of the factory council.
6. Shifts and absenteeism: The mine worked in three shifts, except on Sundays when only the convicts worked. The SNB guarded both the mine itself and the convicts employed there. Morale of the workers was bad, due to their low earnings and the fact that they had to work very hard (harder than before), because the norms were constantly being increased. Workers were very frequently drunk, and missed shifts so often that absenteeism was quite heavy. For these reasons the administration ordered that anyone missing two shifts without rightfully excusing the action would forfeit his supplementary ration card (issued to heavy workers) and simultaneously be disqualified from receiving any special allotments normally given to miners in these uranium mines. Anyone missing two shifts had, according to existing regulation, to be tried in court for sabotaging the Five Year Plan.

URANIUM ORE MINE "LESNICE" IN HORNI SLAVKOV

The exact location of this mine is indicated by circled number 2 on Enclosure C; for detailed description see Enclosure B with legend.

7. The Lesnice mine is about 200 meters deep, has four levels with a fifth under construction, and comes under the jurisdiction of the inspectorate in Horni Slavkov. The first level of this mine is connected by passage to the Svatopluk mine. (See Enclosure C.) A battery-driven, narrow-gauge mine locomotive plies this connecting passage. The rest of the mine equipment is the same as that at the Barbora mine.
- Production: The Lesnice mine yielded 240 truckloads of material per shift, the crude ore containing about 15 % good, radioactive ore. The radioactive ore was transported daily to an unknown location by trucks under SNB guard. I cannot estimate the percentage of uranium in the ore.

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9. Personnel: The Lesnice mine employs about 300 civilian workers and some 250 convicts in three shifts. Of the total number, about 100 are skilled workers. The convicts working in the mine are serving heavy sentences, and many who have been working in the mine for four years or more are already well acquainted with uranium ore mining. I do not recall the names of the managing personalities.
10. The wages for Lesnice are the same as those for "Barbora". The political division of employees was about the same as that at Barbora. The mine and the convicts were guarded by the SNB.

NEW URANIUM MINES IN THE BEROUN AREA

11. The exact location of the mines is indicated by the circled number 1 on Enclosure D. These mines were opened toward the end of 1951 and come under the jurisdiction of the Jachymov inspectorate. The mines were opened in an area formerly the site of the sanatorium for pulmonary diseases, called "Na Plesi". This installation was discontinued and the facilities transferred to the Masaryk sanatorium, (circled number 2, Enclosure D). The ore from these mines is transported to Jachymov.

NEW, LARGE FACTORY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF GLOVES IN DOBRIS

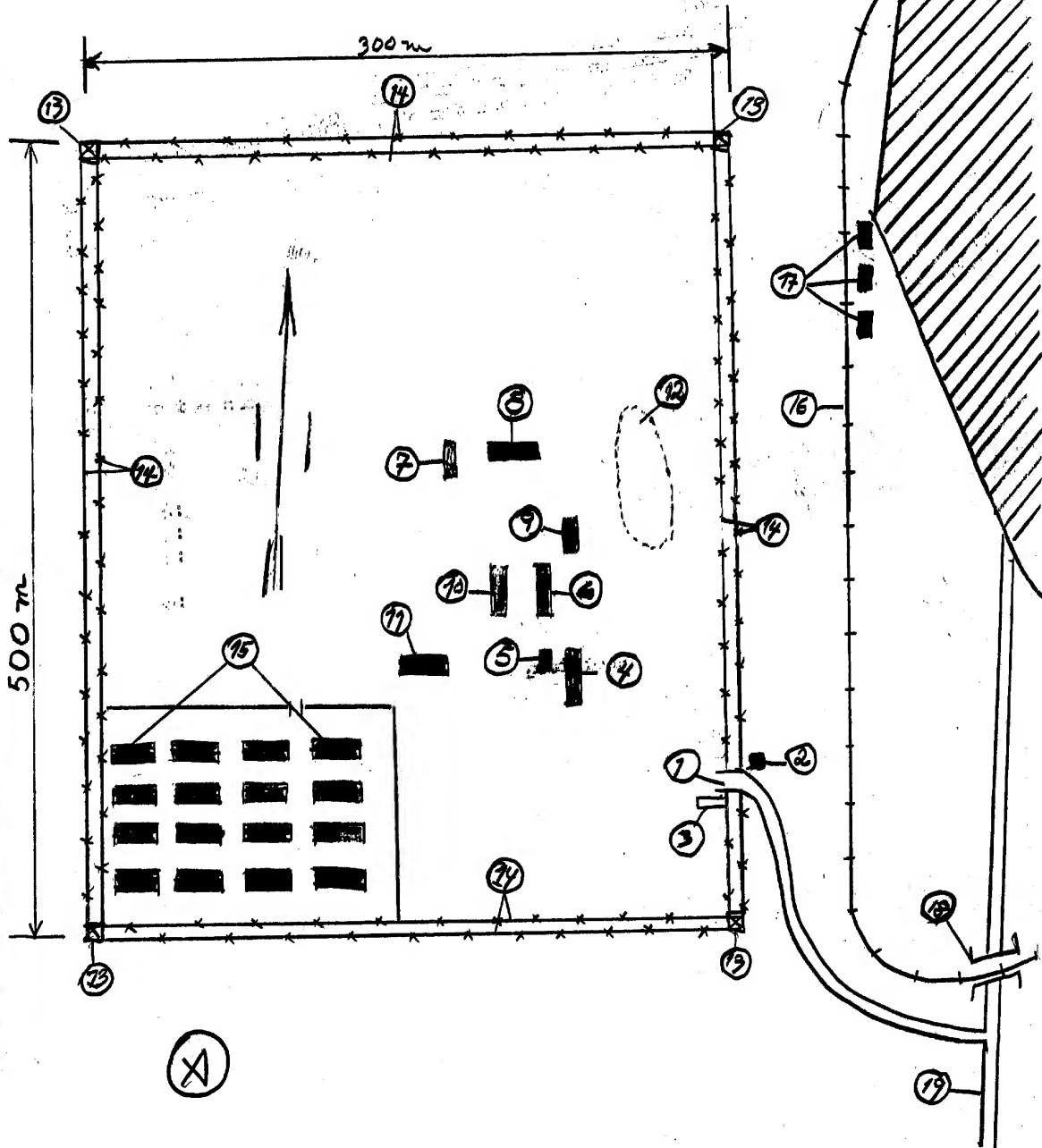
12. The exact location of the factory is indicated by the circled number 3 on Enclosure D. The glove factory in Dobris was completed in 1951. It consists of a six-story building with extremely modern equipment. All shops and offices of the factory are centrally heated, and some heavy duty electrical cables lead into the shops. (These cables are not needed for glove manufacture, but it is said among the workers that the factory was designed to be converted to war production at very short notice.) The factory also had a 40-meter high brick smoke stack.

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ENCLOSURES: (A) Sketch-map of "Barbora" mine, with legend
 (B) Sketch-map of "Lesnice" mine, with legend
 (C) Map of Cheb, showing locations of "Barbora", "Lesnice", and "Svatopluk" uranium mines
 (D) Map of Beroun, indicating mines and glove factory

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URANORUDNÝ DŮL - "BARBORA"
HORNÍ SLAVKOV.

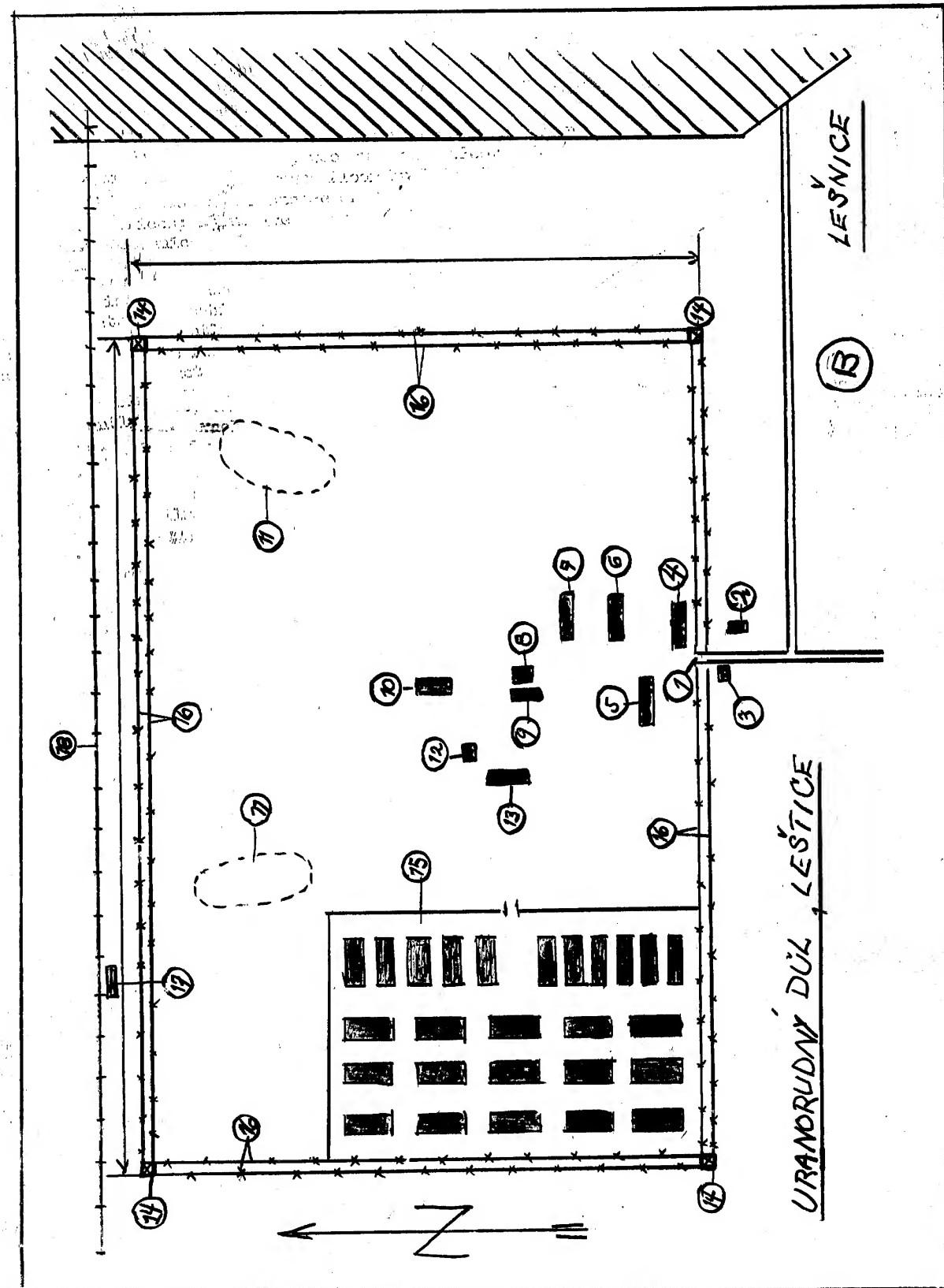


SKETCH MAP OF "BARBORA" MINE, WITH LEGEND

Legend for Enclosure (A) Barbora Mine

1. Main entrance to the mine; wooden gate interwoven with barbed wire.
2. Wooden ground floor building 8 x 4 meters, with tarpaper roof; this is the information office and a clerk is constantly on duty.
3. SNB Guardhouse; ground floor building 10 x 5 meters.
4. Uranium ore sorting plant, ground floor building 30 x 10 meters.
5. Pit head tower; wooden construction with electrically driven cages, 10 x 10 x 7 meters.
6. Washrooms and locker rooms; wooden ground floor building 30 x 10 meters.
7. Clothing warehouse; wooden ground floor building 15 x 5 meters.
8. Office, wooden ground floor building 30 x 10 meters.
9. Lamp shop and issuance of stamps [~~tokens?~~] as above 15 x 5 meters.
10. Offices; structure as above, 30 x 10 meters.
11. Mechanics workshop; structure as above, 30 x 10 meters.
12. Mound of waste material.
13. Guard towers; wooden construction; about 6 meters high with a cabin mounted on top. The cabin has windows affording a view in all directions. The towers are constantly manned by SNB.
14. Barbed wire fence surrounding the mine and the convict stockade; the fence is about 3 meters high and mounted on wooden posts. The fencing is arranged in a double row with a 1.5 meter wide gap in between the two walls of fencing. This gap is covered with white sand and constantly patrolled by SNB members.
15. Convict stockade for about 250 men employed at the Barbora mine; the camp consists of several ground floor, wooden huts, each about 35 x 12 meters.
16. Single-track railroad line.
17. Wooden two-story building, housing the Soviet engineers.
18. Stone railroad bridge.
19. Rolled okres [~~secondary?~~] highway.

ENCLOSURE (B)

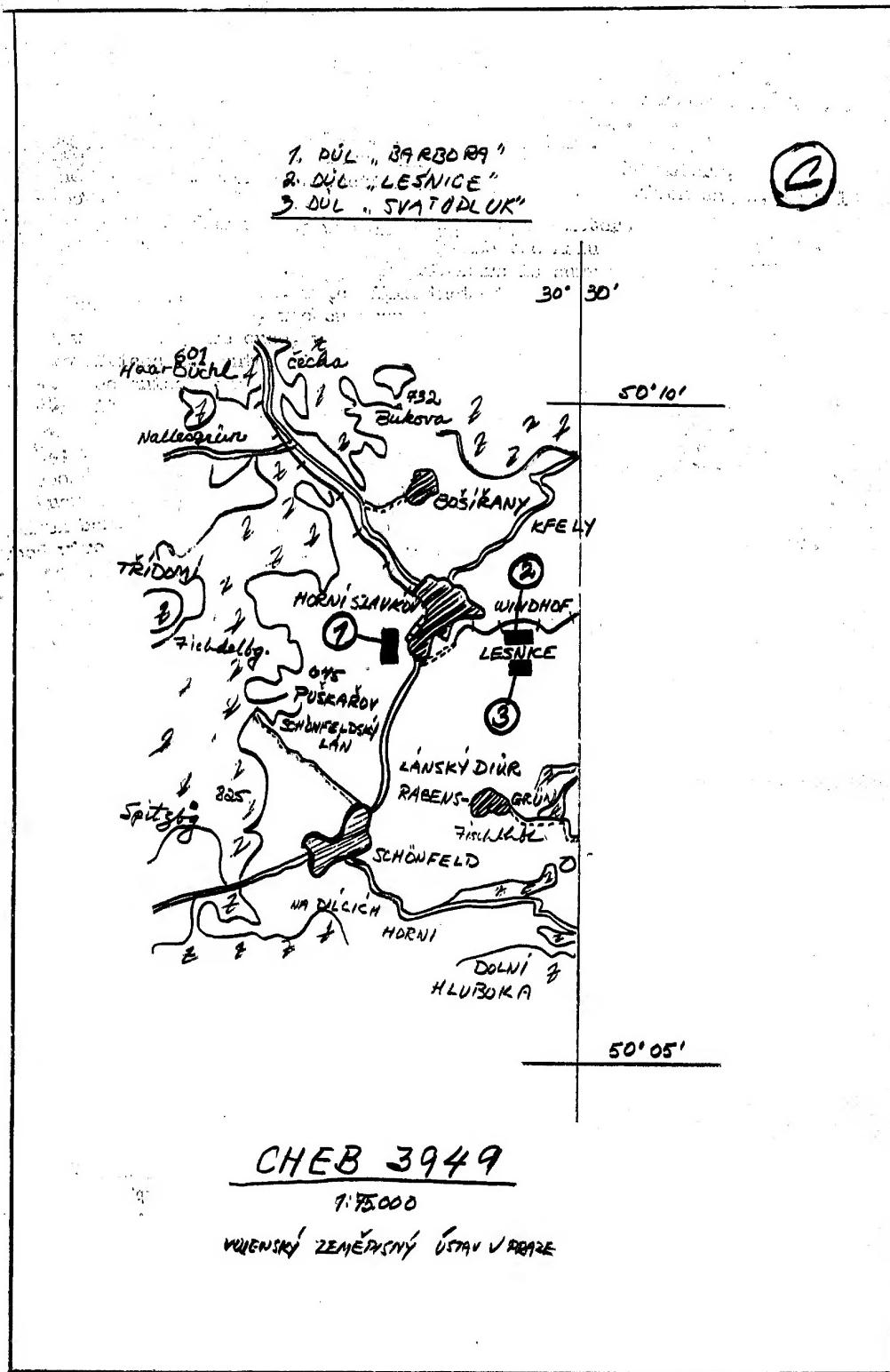


SKETCH MAP OF "LESNICE" MINE, WITH LEGEND

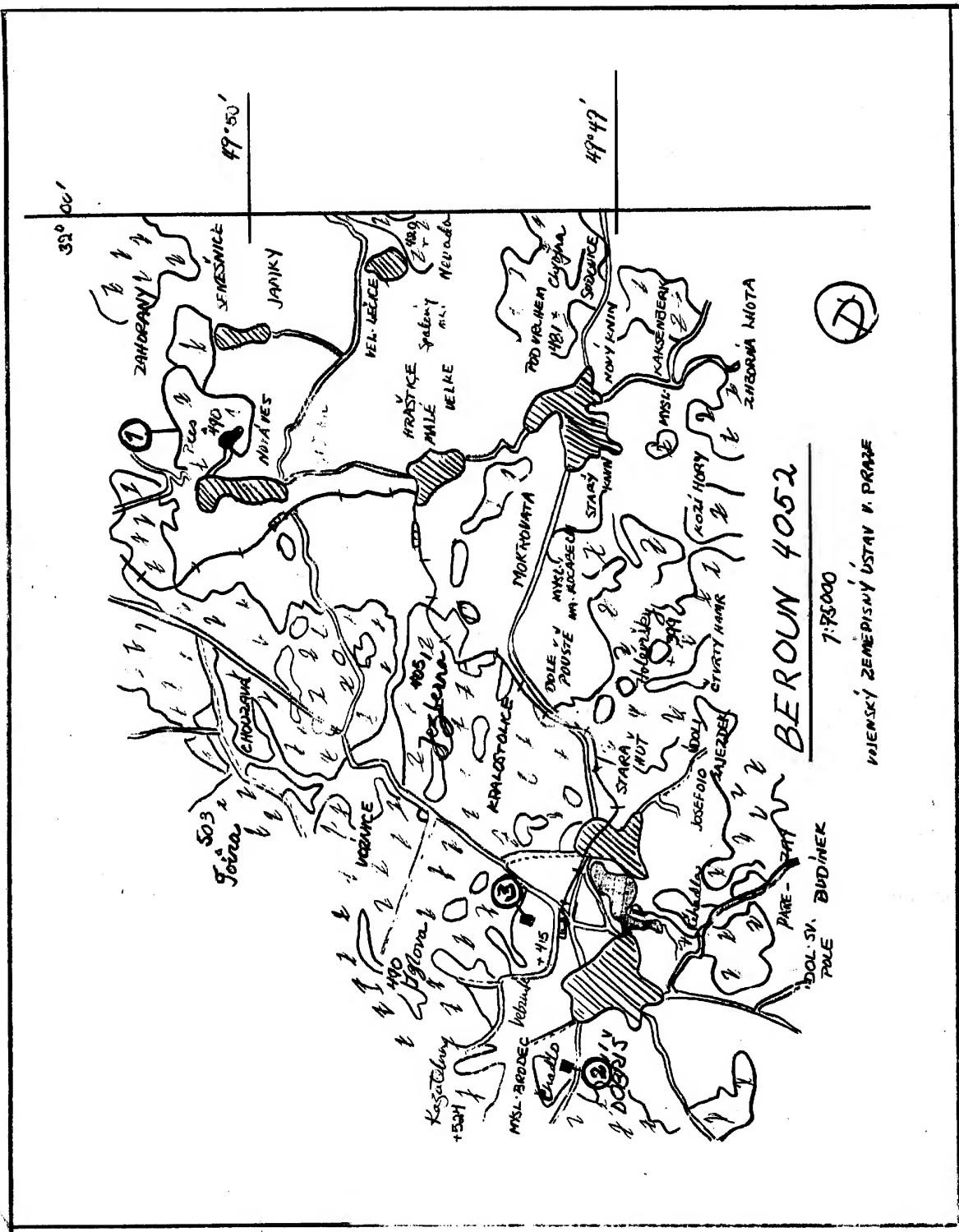
Legend for Enclosure (B) Lesnice Uranium Mine

1. Main entrance to the mine, formed by a wooden gate, interwoven with barbed wire.
2. Wooden building under construction, about 10 x 6 meters.
3. Wooden ground floor building, about 6 x 6 meters, housing the generator for electric power, to be used in case the main power line becomes unusable. The mine and the camp for prisoners is surrounded by searchlights, mounted on wooden posts, which illuminate the entire installation at night.
4. SNB Guard house, wooden ground floor building 25 x 10 meters.
5. Clothing warehouse, wooden ground floor building, 25 x 10 meters.
6. Offices and enterprise council; same as above 25 x 10 meters.
7. Mechanical workshop; construction same as above, 25 x 10 meters.
8. Pit head tower; steel construction, newly erected in 1952.
9. Uranium ore sorting plant; wooden ground floor building 15 x 6 meters.
10. Uranium ore warehouse; same as above 20 x 9 meters.
11. Mounds for waste material.
12. Lamp shop; wooden ground floor building about 5 x 5 meters.
13. Locker rooms and wash rooms; wooden ground floor building 25 x 9 meters.
14. Wooden guard towers, about 6 meters tall; SNB guards are on constant duty here.
15. Convicts camp for about 300 persons employed at this mine consisting of several wooden barracks 35 x 12 meters.
16. Barbed wire fences surrounding the mine and the convict camp; the layout of the fence is the same as for the Barbora mine.
17. Railroad way station.
18. Single-track railroad line.

ENCLOSURE (C)

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MAP OF CHEB, SHOWING LOCATIONS OF "BARBORA", "LESNICE" AND "SVATOPLUK" URANIUM MINES



MAP OF BEROUN, INDICATING NAMES AND GLOVE FACTORY

732.17	27M
4/732.17	27M
762.2	27M
746.9	27M
9/732.17	27M

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